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**Proposed Amendments to the Claims 1, 20, 21, 25, 30 and 31**

These proposed amendments, shown in blackline and strikeout from the claims as presented in the Response dated July 20, 2005, are provided as a basis for an Examiner's amendment.

Claim 1. (proposed amendment) A method of defining an order for sending a plurality of requests for statistics to an associated plurality of nodes in a communication network, one or more requests of said plurality of requests being associated with an individual node of said associated plurality of nodes and each of said associated plurality of nodes having one or more node attributes, said method comprising steps of:

defining for each node of said associated plurality of nodes a translated value related to a value of a selected node attribute of said one or more node attributes of each of said associated plurality of nodes[[,] :

after all translated values of said associated plurality of nodes are defined, defining a sequence for sending said plurality of requests to be sent to said associated plurality of nodes, said sequence based on said value of said selected node attribute and a ranking of said all translated values; and

initiating each of said plurality of requests according to said sequence.

Claim 20. (proposed amendment) An apparatus for use in a statistics collection unit in a communication network, said apparatus comprising:

a device defining a sequence for sending a plurality of requests for statistics to be sent from said statistics collection unit to an associated plurality of nodes of said plurality of nodes ~~in said segment~~ and defining for each node of said associated plurality of nodes a

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translated value related to said value of said selected node attribute prior to said defining said sequence,

wherein for said device

one ~~or more requests~~ request of said plurality of requests is associated with an individual node of said associated plurality of nodes;

each of said associated plurality of nodes has one or more node attributes;

said sequence is based on a ranking of ~~said associated plurality of nodes based on a value of a selected node attribute of said one or more node attributes of each of said associated plurality of nodes~~ all of translated values; and

said device initiates each of said plurality of requests according to said sequence.

Claim 21. (proposed to be cancelled)

Claim 25. (proposed amendment) The apparatus for use in a statistics collection unit as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said upper bound number for said each of said associated plurality of nodes is separately defined for said each of said associated plurality of nodes ~~in said segment~~.

Claim 30. (proposed amendment) A computer executable program embodied on a computer readable medium for use on a communication network, said communication network comprising a plurality of nodes, said computer executable program executing the steps of:

defining a sequence for sending a plurality of requests for statistics to an associated plurality of ~~[[said]]~~ nodes of said plurality of nodes by ~~selecting two or more of said node attributes and for each of said two or more of said node attributes and ranking said associated plurality of nodes based on said value of said each of said two or more of said node attributes, one or more requests of said plurality of requests being associated with an individual node of said associated plurality of nodes and each of said associated plurality of nodes having one or more node attributes, said sequence being based on a value of a selected node attribute of said one or more node attributes of each of said associated plurality of nodes; and~~

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defining for each node of said associated plurality of nodes a translated value related to a value of a selected node attribute of said one or more node attributes of each of said associated plurality of nodes; and

after all translated values of said associated plurality of nodes are defined, defining a sequence for sending said plurality of requests to be sent to said associated plurality of nodes, said sequence based on said value of said selected node attribute and a ranking of said all translated values;

and

initiating each of said plurality of requests according to said sequence.

Claim 31. (proposed to be cancelled)